

After pursuing his studies, Mr. Mercado decided to devote himself to helping others. He made extensive trips throughout the world. Through his top-rated television show on Univision, numerous books and public appearances, Mr. Mercado has raised the quality of millions of lives with entertaining, helpful advice on matters of health, family, love, and finance. In addition, he has been involved in numerous charities because of his concern for the well-being of the community and the world. Mr. Mercado has given special attention to the betterment of children's lives everywhere.

Mr. Mercado combines a flamboyant, outgoing nature with a genuine concern for people. He is not afraid to be outlandish, but he is also sensitive enough to care about his audience. Perhaps, he is so popular, because his audience knows that behind the showmanship is an entertainer with a heart of gold.

It is an honor to have such an outstanding and considerate individual visit my district. Walter Mercado demonstrates the positive influence one person can have on the lives of many. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognition of Walter Mercado, a remarkable man.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 1996

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I was attending a function in my congressional district. As a result, I unfortunately missed several votes. Had I been here, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall 248; "yea" on rollcall 249; "yea" on rollcall 250; "nay" on rollcall 251; "yea" on rollcall 252; "nay" on rollcall 253; "nay" on rollcall 254; "nay" on rollcall 255; "nay" on rollcall 256; "nay" on rollcall 257; "nay" on rollcall 258.

#### CLINTON WELFARE REFORM

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 1996

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, it was not a month ago that the President praised the Wisconsin welfare reform plan. Once he got the headlines he wanted, the backpeddle began. The Clinton administration's wavering on Wisconsin's plan is just another in a long history of broken promises on welfare reform.

Throughout 1992, candidate Clinton talked time and again about the need for welfare reform. It has been almost 4 years and his only action on welfare reform has been to veto the reform, not once, but twice. In February of this year, the President supported a bipartisan welfare reform plan unanimously approved by the Nation's 50 Governors—Republican and Democrat alike. Within a month Secretary Shalala said the President would veto the plan.

It is clear the President does not mean what he says. In spite of all of his talk, he is wed to the status quo. By contrast, my Republican colleagues and I are committed to ending welfare as we know it. Congressional Republicans have proposed and passed genuine

welfare reform that moves people off of the welfare rolls and onto payrolls.

If we are to have real welfare reform, we must take power out of the hands of Washington bureaucrats and give it back to the people and the States. Not many people, outside of the White House, believe that the Washington welfare bureaucracy—which has presided over the past 30 years of failure—knows more about welfare reform than the States who have proven track records. It is high time the President stopped talking out of both sides of his mouth and began welfare reform in earnest.

WILLIAM H. NATCHER BRIDGE

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 18, 1996

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, it is with a great deal of pride that I support the consideration of H.R. 3572. This legislation, which is the same bill the House passed last Congress but the Senate failed to act on, acknowledges the contribution of one of our dear friends and colleagues, William H. Natcher of the State of Kentucky, by designating the bridge on U.S. Route 231 crossing the Ohio River between Maceo, KY and Rockport, IN, as the "William H. Natcher Bridge". It is only fitting and proper that a major infrastructure project serve as a long and lasting monument in honor of Bill Natcher. He worked closely with the then-Committee on Public Works and Transportation to provide funding for the construction of this project.

For over 40 years, Bill Natcher worked tirelessly to serve his constituents and the Nation. His public service record is exemplary with having never missed a day of work and with having cast 18,401 consecutive rollcall votes until advised by his physicians to remain at the Bethesda Naval Hospital to receive medical treatment.

Mr. Speaker, more importantly, the character of the gentleman is what set him apart from many of his colleagues. He was a courteous, dignified, and considerate human being whom we all loved and respected. Throughout Bill Natcher's tenure in the House, he enjoyed tremendous respect. He exhibited true leadership virtues during his service as chairman of the Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education and as chairman of the Committee on Appropriations. Under his tenure, all 13 appropriations bills were enacted on time, without the need for a continuing resolution.

In the 103d Congress, this committee worked closely with the gentlemen from Kentucky and was extremely proud of his willingness to work together to support legislation that maintained the integrity of the legislative process.

Mr. Speaker, it was an honor and privilege to have served for over 19 years in the House with my friend and colleague, Bill Natcher. I am pleased to support this legislation as a testament to the tremendous work he did for the State of Kentucky, its Second District, and the Nation, and I urge approval of the bill.

#### TRIBUTE TO TOP COAST GUARD OFFICER

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 1996

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Capt. Eric Staut, commanding officer of the Coast Guard Training Center in Petaluma, CA, who retires this month after 30 years of impeccable service to our country, our Coast Guard, and the Petaluma community.

Captain Staut's extensive accomplishments and experience in the Coast Guard include serving as district chief of operations, law enforcement staff chief, commanding officer of two air stations, and chief of enlisted personnel responsible for the management of the Coast Guard's 30,000 member enlisted force.

I had the pleasure of working with Captain Staut when he was the commanding officer of the Coast Guard Training Center, Petaluma. Through his creative, proactive, and skillful leadership, the training center has become one of the most efficient facilities in the Coast Guard. Under Captain Staut's command, the Petaluma Training Center went from being on the chopping block to receiving the Unit Commendation Award, which is the highest unit award in the Coast Guard. According to the Coast Guard's Commandant who awarded this prestigious commendation, the staff demonstrated dynamic leadership and innovation in the quality of training and support services. It was Captain Staut's natural leadership that helped shape and enrich the minds and hearts of the students and staff who take pride in the work they do and in the place they serve. His leadership, hard work, and dedication have tremendously affected countless lives.

On June 25, 1996, Captain Staut will be relieving his command of the Petaluma Training Center, but he will forever remain a vital link to the history of the Petaluma area, and the west coast, for the honors and successes he brought to the center and for helping keep the only Coast Guard Training Center on the west coast. I urge my colleagues to please join me in saluting Captain Staut, and wishing him and his wife, Carolyn, much success with their future plans.

#### EAST KENTWOOD HIGH SCHOOL CONTINUES EXCELLENCE

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 1996

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the outstanding dedication and effort of a group of students and their teacher from my district. The students are from East Kentwood High School and their teacher is Deb Snow. Earlier this spring, Ms. Snow and her 22 students competed in the We the People . . . The Citizen and the Constitution national finals and won the region three award. The award is presented to five schools, from each of five geographic regions, with the highest cumulative score during the first 2 days of the national finals. This remarkable feat was accomplished while competing against 49 other classes from around the country.